

**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**

SHEET 1 OF 1

*Complete if known*

Application Number: 09/887,789

Filing Date: June 22, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman et al

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1

**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
NOT CONSIDERED NO COPY TRANS.		659146	RU	04/30/1979	

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

**RECEIVED**

MAR 04 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**RECEIVED**

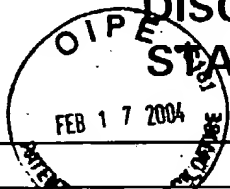
FEB 27 2004

**GROUP 3600**

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	5/24/04
-------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------	---------


EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> 	<i>Complete if known</i>	
	Application Number: 09/887,789	
	Filing Date: June 22, 2001	
	First Named Inventor: Whitman et al	
	Group Art Unit: 3721	
	Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.	
SHEET 1 OF 2		RECEIVED FEB 23 2004 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700
Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1		

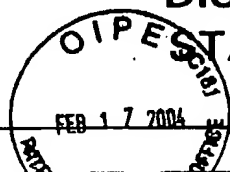
UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
LT ↓		5,667,517	09/16/1997	Hooven
		5,954,259	09/21/1999	Viola
		5,868,760	09/09/1999	McGuckin
		5,653,374	08/05/1997	Young
		5,433,721	07/18/1995	Hooven
		6,165,169	10/12/2000	Panescu, et al.
		5,772,597	10/06/1998	Goldberger, et al.
		5,993,454	11/30/1999	Longo
		<del>6,634,144</del>	01/18/1995	Ethicon
		6119913	09/19/2000	Main, et al.
LT ↓		5529235	6/25/1996	Boiarski, et al.
		5609560	03/11/1997	Ichikawa, et al.
		5617857	04/08/1997	Chader, et al.
		5993454	11/30/1999	Longo
		6059719	05/09/2000	Yamamoto, et al.
		6434507	08/13/2002	Clayton, et al.

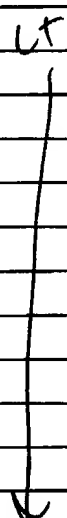
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
LT		99/58076	WO	11/18/1999	
LT		92/16141	WO	10/01/1992	
LT		2044108	GB	10/15/1990	
LT		0116220	EP	0/22/1984	

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	5/24/04
----------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------	---------

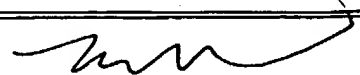
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	<i>Complete if known</i>	
	Application Number: 09/887,789	
	Filing Date: June 22, 2001	
	First Named Inventor: Whitman et al	
	Group Art Unit: 3721	
	Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.	
		Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147US1
SHEET 2 OF 2		

		0156774	EP	10/02/1985	<b>RECEIVED</b> FEB 23 2004 TECHNOLOGY CENTER B3700
		0399701	EP	11/28/1990	
		0552050	EP	07/21/1993	
		7711347	NL	04/19/1979	
		3300768	DE	07/19/1984	
		2180455	GB	04/01/1987	
		0216532	EP	04/01/1987	
		90/05491	WO	05/31/1990	
		0593920	EP	04/27/1994	
		0539762	EP	10/05/1992	
		0621006	EP	03/22/1994	
		93/08754	WO	05/13/1993	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	5/24/04
----------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------	---------

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY